

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, APER, US, SY

SUBJECT: SARG REQUIREMENT REGARDING ENTRY OF POSITION IN
DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS

REF: DAMASCUS 624

1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, U.S. DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS NOW INDICATE ONLY THAT BEARER IS ON "DIPLOMATIC MISSION" FOR THE USG OR "ON ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE" (8 FAM 249. 97A(1)) WITHOUT SPECIFYING NATURE OF MISSION. THIS HAS BEEN U.S. PRACTICE ON ISSUING DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS FOR PAST 25 YEARS. FYI. IN THE 1940S, DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS IN GENERAL DID SPECIFY EXACT RANK AND/OR TITLE, BUT THIS WAS DISCARDED AS UNWIELDY. END FYI. CURRENTLY, ONLY PASSPORTS CARRYING POSITION DESIGNATIONS ARE THOSE OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS, E.G., SECRETARY OF STATE (SEE 8 FAM FOR FULL LIST). ONLY PERSON ON EMBASSY LEVEL TO CARRY SUCH A PASSPORT IS AMBASSADOR.

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2. INTERESTINGLY, CURRENT ENTRY IN PASSPORT IS NOT MATTER OF REGULATION BUT PRACTICE, AND THEORETICALLY COULD BE CHANGED, IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY, WITHOUT REQUIRING CHANGES IN ANY REGULATIONS. HOWEVER, PROSPECT POSES NUMEROUS

PRACTICAL PROBLEMS. NOT THE LEAST OF THESE IS OF COURSE THAT OF PRECEDENT. CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING CASE OF LIBYA'S DEMAND FOR USE OF ARABIC A GOOD CASE IN POINT OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DEMANDS FOR PASSPORT CHANGES.

3. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT INCLUSION OF POSITION DESIGNATION WOULD LIMIT PRESENT FLEXIBILITY OF PASSPORT, AND MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS IN USING IT FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY OF ASSIGNMENT. LATTER DIFFICULTY COULD ARISE AS RESULT OF FACT THAT DESIGNATION IN PASSPORT OF BEARER'S POSITION AS "CULTURAL ATTACHE", FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED BY QUALIFIER SIMILAR TO "ACCREDITED TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC". (FYI: THIS DETERMINATION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE OFFICIALLY BUT MUST BE CONSIDERED AS POSSIBILITY.) FINALLY, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO CREATE POSSIBLE SECURITY PROBLEM FOR PERSONNEL SUCH AS MILITARY ATTACHES THROUGH UNNECESSARY USE OF POSITION DESIGNATIONS.

4. BEFORE PURSUING QUESTION OF PASSPORT DESIGNATIONS FURTHER HERE, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1) WHAT HAS BEEN RESPONSE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY TO SARG NOTE? WILL SITUATION BE ANOTHER LIBYA?

(2) IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM TEXT OF NOTE CONTAINED IN REFTTEL PARA 1 WHETHER REQUIREMENT IS FOR DESIGNATION OF TITLE OR FUNCTION, E.G., DESIGNATION AS "SECOND SECRETARY OF EMBASSY" OR "COMMERCIAL ATTACHE". HAS SARG ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION OR HAS IT IN FACT BEEN RAISED BY ANYONE THERE? "SECOND SECRETARY" TYPE OF DESIGNATION WOULD PROVE LESS TROUBLESOME THAN FUNCTIONAL DESIGNATION, BUT WOULD NOT ANSWER PROBLEM OF MILITARY ATTACHES AND OTHER NON-DEPARTMENT OR LIMITED ASSIGNMENT PERSONNEL. NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL CARRYING DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS POSE A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEM ALL THEIR OWN.

(3) IS SARG ACTION TO BE LIMITED ONLY TO FUTURE INCOMING PERSONNEL, OR CAN WE EXPECT IT EVENTUALLY TO BE APPLIED TO THOSE PRESENTLY AT POST?

(4) KEEPING IN MIND PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY, CAN EMBASSY DETERMINE PRESENT SARG PRACTICE IN ISSUING ITS OWN DIPLO-

MATIC PASSPORTS AND WHETHER DESIGNATION OF POSITION IS
INCLUDED IN PASSPORT ITSELF AS STANDARD INFORMATION?

5. WE ARE LOOKING INTO RELATED QUESTIONS POSED IN YOUR
CABLE 550 AND HOPE TO SUPPLY YOU ANSWERS AND COMMENTS SOON-
EST. KISSINGER

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